

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 25-27, 29- 37 and 39 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

None of the prior art, either singularly or in combination, fairly teaches or suggests applicant's claimed invention wherein applicant recites as follows:

As per method claim 25:

"wherein the associating step uses a chamfer map of the second contour via which, at each point of the first contour with coordinates x and y applied as input, said map provides as output an identification of the associated point of the second contour and a measure of the proximity between the two points thus associated."

As per method claim 39:

"the identification method further comprising an allocation of a local score of proximity $N(M\sim)$ to each point $M\sim$ of the second contour as a function of a measure of proximity of this point $M\sim$ to the first contour, which has a value lying between 0 and 1, which is equal to zero if it is paired to zero points of the first contour, and if it is paired to one point of the image contour, which is equal to a value that is small when the distance between the two paired points is large, and which is equal to a value that is large, when the distance between the two paired points is small. "

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Inquiry

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mike Rahmjoo whose telephone number is 571-272-7789. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 AM- 5 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matt Bella can be reached on 571-272-7778. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Mike Rahmjoo

May 25, 2010

/Matthew C Bella/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2624